

## The Sun

AND NEW YORK PRESS.

TUESDAY, JULY 9, 1918.

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one direction, however, the evils that have grown up can be corrected, and will be, under a sensible plan for the management of trucks and unloading of ships and railroad cars. The scheme worked out by JAMES S. HALL of the Interstate Commerce Commission with the help of a number of other citizens, and approved by Mr. McAdoo, displays all the elements of practicability. It provides for prompt unloading of cars and ships, immediate delivery of goods to consignees, and the utilization of the full carrying capacity of trucks. It should reduce the number of vehicles in the streets, and by expediting the handling of freight greatly increase the effectiveness of all of the transportation lines. Every freight car used as a storage place is a dead loss to the country. The fact that demurrage is paid on it is of no consequence. What we need is not high receipts from idle rolling stock, but the rolling stock in active service. Any reform that will get the cars back on the main tracks quickly will confer great benefits.

## The Spanish Epidemic of Influenza and Its War Aspects.

The epidemic which began a few weeks ago in Spain has been called influenza because it presented the principle symptoms of what is usually described as a gripe. It is being investigated in Madrid and other cities, with the result that so far the first reports of its character have had to be revised. Early in the outbreak it was stated in the London newspapers that the germ of the disease had not been isolated. The statements as published in Madrid were that the influenza bacillus had not been associated with the cases of the disease, but that a different and slightly known microbe, the paramyxovirus, was generally found. Whether this germ was really the cause or only an accompaniment of the ailment has not been settled. Another report was that the plague had started in Spain. This plague report was officially denied by the Spanish health authorities.

These Spanish authorities have just stated their opinion of the new ailment. In their view it is a camp infection which was hatched on the western front during the March offensive of the Germans. The massing of vast numbers of troops from various parts of Europe caused a concentration of the germs of the disease and an increase in their virulence. Wars nearly always produce new infections. The present war has fortunately not bred an epidemic like the plague or smallpox, but it has produced some new and strange infections which are now being studied in France. The latest of these is the Spanish influenza, which is showing one great point of resemblance to genuine influenza in its tendency to spread.

It began in Flanders, but its precise way of reaching Spain has never been seriously investigated. The fact that it jumped over intervening countries and sea is no matter of surprise to students of medicine. They are familiar with the peculiarity of influenza epidemics and similar infections. The great influenza epidemic of 1889 spread over the entire world, following a most circuitous course, and seemed to obey no law of seasons or of atmosphere. The differences between this epidemic and Spanish influenza disclose the points of likeness and dissimilarity. In the great epidemics influenza was a severe disease, and people suddenly seized by it were incapacitated for at least twelve days, although some of the strongest tried to throw off the weakness by the use of stimulants. The severe retaliatory measures of the Germans have heightened this opposition until the peasant army has reached a total enrollment of 200,000. According to correspondence to the London Daily Express a peasant army numbering 75,000 has forced the retreat of the German army of occupation. The peasant army has been reinforced by a Polish contingent, the first Polish corps under General Moysiwski engaging the Germans near the Polish frontier and the second corps under General Mikulski advancing upon Kiev, the Ukrainian capital.

The second centre of known discontent is the Murman coast district, bordering on the White Sea and the Arctic Ocean. The importance of this region to the Allies lies in the fact that at Archangel, on the opposite shore of the White Sea, were stored early in the war by the Entente Powers vast military supplies. With the occupation of Finland the Germans sent a force of White Guards, made up largely of Prussian soldiers, to seize these stores. The people of the Murman coast not only rose in opposition to this invasion of their country, but they called upon the Allies for assistance. This was answered by the despatch of American, French and British marines to the Kola peninsula and later by a supply of provisions from the United States to the town of Murmansk. The result, as stated in a despatch from Copenhagen, is that the entire population of the Murman region has broken with Russia and joined the Entente Powers in the protection of the supply base at Archangel.

The situation in Russia, from the German viewpoint, thus demands as imperatively as at any other time the interference of such a man as Mirbach. While his power over the Bolsheviks was sufficient to make unnecessary the actual presence of a German army in Central Russia, his death will practically compel an attempt to occupy the cities of Moscow and Petrograd. Berlin is demanding this on account of the assassination of its Ambassador, and also as a right for the avowed purpose of maintaining order. Germany thus has found an excuse for advancing in Russia that she has long sought. That LENINE will accede to this demand, as

meric days down to this war never a time has intervened when armor of some sort has not been worn by warriors. Of late, until the present war, the armor may have represented rather a sentimental clinging to a tradition—as the helmets of certain cavalry regiments, the traces of armor in the uniforms of certain troops of cuirassiers—than a practical defense, such as the unyielding "tin lids" our soldiers now wear.

HOMER's heroes clumsily protected parts of their bodies with bronze helmets, cuirasses and greaves, and did the best they could for other parts of their bodies with their shields, also of bronze. When later Greeks further developed armor more nearly to cover the body, the shield was made smaller, and finally disappeared when the use of lighter metal permitted mounted soldiers to fight in armor completely enveloping the body.

The early Germans, says an author, had no armor except the shield until long after the Romans they fought against were as fully armored as a modern battleship, but when the advantage of armor was knocked into their heads the Germans went in for that protection with plodding earnestness. Their merchants were forbidden to sell outside the realm chain shirts, the byrnie later extended into a knee length coat, and all land owners were required to own at least one byrnie.

The Crusaders most rapidly developed armor such as New Yorkers are familiar with in the Metropolitan Museum of Art collection. This, with the visor down, so marked the wearer that in order to be recognized by companions and followers he identified himself by armorial bearings. When gunpowder came into use armor fell rapidly into disuse; now, with the effectiveness of gun and powder enormously increased, it is interesting that army experts are again experimenting with armor which can be used to offset the very cause of its disuse.

## Germany's Excuse for the Occupation of Russia.

The assassination of Count Mirbach, the German Ambassador at Moscow, which has been officially confirmed by the Bolshevik Government, has been made the occasion of the most humble apologies to Berlin from the Russian Premier, LENINE. MIRBACH was Germany's chief agent in Russia. With a re-equipped force of German prisoners at his command he was the power back of the Bolshevik Government. That the German army had halted at the Ukraine frontier and had not advanced upon Moscow was credited to Berlin's faith in Mirbach's ability to control the situation in Germany's interests.

There is nothing to indicate whether the assassination was the act of a fanatic with a personal grievance or was a part of the plot of the Social Revolutionaries, the enemies of the Bolsheviks, to rid Russia of German domination. The comment of the press of the Allied capitals is to the effect that the assassination was an evidence of the awakening of the vengeance of Russia against German tyranny. The *Humanité* of Paris says that the act "was not a vulgar assassination, but an act of open rebellion by exasperated patriotism."

The growth of peasant opposition to the Bolsheviks has been either concealed or has not been marked in the provinces of Old Russia. There is no doubt of the revolt of the peasants in Ukraine. This was clearly shown in their refusal to accede to the demands of the Germans for grain to supply the Central Powers. The severe retaliatory measures of the Germans have heightened this opposition until the peasant army has reached a total enrollment of 200,000. According to correspondence to the London Daily Express a peasant army numbering 75,000 has forced the retreat of the German army of occupation. The peasant army has been reinforced by a Polish contingent, the first Polish corps under General Moysiwski engaging the Germans near the Polish frontier and the second corps under General Mikulski advancing upon Kiev, the Ukrainian capital.

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How varied are the duties performed with admirable discretion by our police! A heat distressed citizen appears on a crowded thoroughfare unattended except by a smile of complacency born of perfect comfort. The promptly attending policeman deftly subdues the man's fiery temper, soothes the head and shoulders of a curb marketwoman, skilfully drapes it over the wandering life class model and invites him to "see the Captain." A wounded woman nurse home from over there, her troubled mind newly dulled by the tramp of the Fourth, rushes to the street in her haste. A policeman, quick seeing, borrows a rug from an automobile, more conventionally covers the nurse and flatteringly confides to her that the station matron longs to see her. No fuss, no delay, no feelings hurt. Fine!

There is no reason to doubt the truth of the statement that the ship was torpedoed. We must express our deep sorrow at the outrage, and feel sure Germany herself will share in this sentiment, and will not fall in appropriate measures.—*The Observer* (London).

On the contrary, German newspapers which refuse to pretend they believe the Government denial of responsibility for the loss of the *Llandovery Castle* insist that her sinking was justified, and assert that she carried arms and that other hospital ships in Allied service mount guns. From the utterances of German leaders it is plain that war against hospital ships is to be a regular part of Germany's campaign.

The Senate in drafting a bill prohibiting the sale of liquor after January 1 may have considered the psychology of the new leaf.

The editor of the *Monthly Weather Review* may have been delayed, but the weather itself is true blue.

he has to all others made by Germany, is expected from the abjectness of his apology. But in the face of the growth of anti-German sentiment and of his own evidently waning power, will he not in this turning Russia completely over to Germany hasten the downfall of the miserably incompetent Bolshevik rule?

## What German "Freedom of the Seas" Really Means.

The phrase "freedom of the seas" has been a favorite locution with Germans since they began the war against civilization. They have sought to picture England as a brutal and despotic ruler of the great waters, restricting and confining other nations in their use of the oceans. The attempt has not been a success; the existence and prosperity of a tremendous German merchant fleet have too obvious a refutation of the charges of British discrimination to be couched. It has been apparent that when a German statesman talked of "freedom of the seas" he meant freedom for Germany and for nobody else. But this truth has not been acknowledged by Germany's spokesmen, for good and sufficient reasons.

It is interesting therefore to find the facts of German purpose bluntly declared on respectable German authority, by Professor EHRENBERG, in the *Vossische Zeitung*. Not the oceans open to all on terms of exact equality, which has been the situation for years, but the oceans a series of German lakes is the object of the war on its naval side. He writes:

"The victory at Constantinople (the alliance with Turkey) is the first step toward a naval victory. Thanks to that victory, we have leaped across England's power in the Mediterranean, and thus we have become a naval power, thanks to a victory on the land. We must go on in the same direction, and there shines clearly before us our last object for the attainment of the freedom of the seas—the domination of the Suez Canal."

"By the possession of the Suez Canal we would have in our hands the core of the British Empire, and the latter would thus be deprived of its poisonous tooth. And we would in this manner become the rulers of the bridge to the second great part of the world and the neighbors of the Indian Ocean; we would get out of the Middle European press—the most terrible, we would not care what is going on in the Atlantic. Egypt must be our aim; and if we cannot reach it right now we must get to it as closely as possible; this means that we must add to our Constantinople naval victory further victories; we must capture the Suez Canal and hold it for a victory in our future naval and colonial war."

In this conception of freedom of the seas there is no passage indicative of liberty, equal rights or common privileges. The keynote of the whole is domination; German domination, "capture" of Suez for victory in the future "naval and colonial war." The British Empire must be "deprived of its poisonous tooth"; the poison, apparently, so far as the seas are concerned, finding its expression in a policy that made profitable the building and operation of splendid armaments for worldwide trade by every nation in the world that cared to embark in such enterprises. Germany herself was one of the greatest beneficiaries from the operation of this policy. Had Great Britain's leadership in shipping been founded on curtailment of the opportunities of other nations, no such fleet of carriers as that which flew the red and white and black of the German Empire before the Kaiser challenged the world could have come into being.

In this as in other things altruistic words from German tongues mean only selfish German projects thinly veiled or temporarily hidden. German "freedom of the seas" connotes German seas, verboten to all whose presence does not fit German designs or serve German ambition.

The City Hall cupola disappointed New York by not being ready for the Fourth of July celebration. It can restrain itself in public favor by disclosing its form on Bastille Day, which will be celebrated from one end of America to the other this year.

How varied are the duties performed with admirable discretion by our police! A heat distressed citizen appears on a crowded thoroughfare unattended except by a smile of complacency born of perfect comfort. The promptly attending policeman deftly subdues the man's fiery temper, soothes the head and shoulders of a curb marketwoman, skilfully drapes it over the wandering life class model and invites him to "see the Captain." A wounded woman nurse home from over there, her troubled mind newly dulled by the tramp of the Fourth, rushes to the street in her haste. A policeman, quick seeing, borrows a rug from an automobile, more conventionally covers the nurse and flatteringly confides to her that the station matron longs to see her. No fuss, no delay, no feelings hurt. Fine!

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## THE NATION'S ANTHEM.

A Plea for Greater Use of the Fine Song "America."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I was much interested in your recent editorial article entitled "The Star Spangled Banner." Not being qualified to criticize music, I can only say that reading the poem "The Star Spangled Banner" has to me been more enjoyable than hearing the music.

There is another patriotic hymn, "America," which does not receive the attention it is entitled to. It is the music of the churches, I seldom hear it played or sung. The fact that it is sung to the music of "God Save the King" has sometimes been used as an argument against it, but that, particularly at such a time as this, seems peculiar.

There has been much talk and writing about it, but the only "melting pot" we need is to impress every man, woman and child with the idea and the fact that this is the best country on the face of the earth—worth living for and worth dying for—and that it is just as applicable to native as to foreign born citizens.

My country, 'tis of thee,  
Sweet land of liberty,  
Of thee I sing!

That, from the opening stanza of "America," is the outpouring of a patriotic soul. And again:

Let music swell the breeze,  
And ring from all the trees  
Sweet freedom's song.  
Let mortal tongues awake,  
Let all that breathe praise,  
Let rocks their silent voices break—  
The sound prolong.

At a time like this, when tens of thousands of our brave young men, the hope and mainstay of the nation, are going into battle, many of them to death, when the air is thick with rumors of greed and graft, we need patriotic songs, and we cannot have too many of them, to keep burning the fire of patriotism and national unity. If they go to the hearts of the multitude it is not worth while to argue whether or not they are "classical."

If at the present time we have any Francis Scott Keys or Samuel F. Smiths among us, their productions have thus far escaped my attention, though unquestionably good patriotic poetry is being written. In the meantime let us utilize to the fullest extent what we have. I am not an Englishman, therefore cannot write from personal experience, but I can imagine that such poems as Thomas Campbell's "Ye Mariners of England" must have stirred the hearts of the English people.

A. F. FAULKNER.  
New York, July 8.

## FAIR PAY FROM THE CITY.

It Means Adequate Protection to the Citizens.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I hope you will not cease in the very creditable effort to see that the salaries of our policemen and of the firemen are increased to a reasonable figure. As they are entitled to live, I am able to say with authority that resignations are being handed in by the younger men, who have little to lose, having been in the department a comparatively short time.

Only the men who have been long in the service, needing their twenty year retirement, are the ones that will remain. No new men are entering the Fire Department, and besides, the draft taking great numbers away, we are to see our city badly protected. When it is much more necessary number of men now, what are we to expect for the future? Similar to the one just passed confront us?

It is time the people were aware of the inefficient protection their business and their homes are under at the present and let Mayor Hylan that the men resigning and will resign if they have adequate sufficient for the support of their families. ONE FINE BIRD.  
New York, July 8.

## COMMUTING ON THE ERIE.

Its Rates Compared With Those of Other Roads.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: In referring to the complaint of "L. M." in the SUN of July 5 just for information I wish to ask, in reference to the third paragraph, if there is any difference in the number of Sundays in any particular thirty days as compared with any certain calendar month.

The grievance seems to be with regard to loss of four round trips a month through not going to business on Sundays. If a commutation ticket were made good for thirty days from date of sale would the complaining person go to business on Sundays?

Further, I am advised that the commutation rates on the other lines mentioned in many instances are higher and that they do not in some cases make tickets good for thirty days. E. A. S.  
PARSONS, N. J., July 8.

## TRAILING A TIME TABLE.

A Panting Traveler Barks at the Railroad Administrator.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I wanted a time table of trains to Chattanooga. I went to the new Railroad Administration office in the Stewart Building. It won't be ready for the public until July 25.

I rushed across the park to a tourist agency. Alas, it was out of business so far as the railroads were concerned. The kind of a tourist agency to the Pennsylvania ticket office at 179 Broadway. There I found the people waiting three deep at the counter. Not a time table in the racks. Not a chance to ask for one for at least half an hour.

Why did Mr. McAdoo wreck the old machinery before the new was ready? FREDERICK PRINE.  
New York, July 8.

## RACES AND NATIONALITIES.

A Line to Be Drawn in Discussing the Divisions of Men.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Have we not adopted of late the word "race" when we speak of "nationalities"? Surely the people of Alsace-Lorraine, Trentino, Bohemia, Serbia, etc., are not separate races, but separate, distinguishable nationalities.

It is not a misnomer to say that thirty-five "races" were represented at the great Mount Vernon celebration, when after all there are only three races living in the United States, the Caucasian, Negro and Mongolian?

## "THE SUN."

A Refreshing Compliment From an Understanding Reader.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Referring to your editorial article regarding the good progress The Sun has been making of late, let me state that your present prosperity is deserved.

I consider it the best newspaper published in this city to-day. The text and general makeup are beyond criticism. Its editorial tone is good.

I am a Democrat. The SUN is Republican, but not offensively so, and for this reason can be read by a good Democrat like myself without irritating the reader. HENRI GEHARD.  
New York, July 8.

## THE VOTE IN DENMARK.

Women Received It Without Campaigning for the Privilege.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: For the benefit of "A Sun Reader" let me say this:

In the summer of 1915 the Danish Government conferred the franchise upon the Danish women without any previous campaign. As an explanation of this unusual proceeding the following was duly published:

In times like these the Government needs the cooperation of all of our citizens, women as well as men.

In that case the weight of the women's vote was considered an asset, not a liability. Our Government now needs the help of all our citizens, men and women, or is the American woman inferior to the Danish? AN AMERICAN BY CHOICE.  
New York, July 8.

## A BELGIAN SOLDIER.

He Wants an American Godmother, Preferably a Writer of French.